

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

5           1. A merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user  
10 information providing means,

              said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
said user information providing means and providing  
said acquired information regarding said user with  
15 merging.

20           2. The merge information providing  
apparatus of as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
merge information providing apparatus comprises:  
              user information acquisition means for  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
25 said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging  
said information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

5

3. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said user  
10 information acquisition means acquires said  
information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means by using first use  
permission information permitting the use of said  
user information providing means.

15

4. The merge information providing  
20 apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising  
use permission information acquisition means for  
acquiring said first use permission information from  
said user information providing means.

25

5. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising  
use permission information creation means for  
creating second use permission information that  
5 permits the use of said merge user information  
providing means.

10

6. The merge information providing  
apparatus of the claim 5, wherein said use permission  
information creation means creates said second use  
permission information including said first use  
15 permission information by using said first use  
permission information.

20

7. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising  
setting means for setting up said subordinate user  
information providing means according to a request.

25

8. A merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
5 information regarding a user and further providing a  
certification service regarding said user as  
subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
10 said user information providing means and providing  
said acquired information regarding said user with  
merging.

15

9. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:  
user information acquisition means for  
20 acquiring said information regarding said user from  
said user information providing means; and  
user information merging means for merging  
said information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

25

10. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said user  
information acquisition means acquires said  
information regarding said user from said user  
5 information providing means by using first use  
permission information permitting the use of said  
user information providing means.

10

11. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising  
use permission information acquisition means for  
15 acquiring said first use permission information from  
said user information providing means.

20

12. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising  
use permission information creation means for  
25 creating second use permission information that

permits the use of said merge user information  
providing means.

5

13. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said use  
permission information creation means creates said  
10 second use permission information including said  
first use permission information by using said first  
use permission information.

15

14. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising  
setting means for setting up said subordinate user  
20 information providing means according to a request.

25

15. The merge information providing

apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising  
certification information acquisition means for  
acquiring first certification information certifying  
certification of said user in said user information  
5 providing means, from said user information providing  
means.

10

16. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 15, further comprising  
second certification information creation means for  
creating second certification information containing  
15 therein said first certification information and  
certifying certification of said user in said merge  
user information providing means by using said first  
certification information.

20

17. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising  
25 user distinction information acquisition means for

acquiring user distinction information that distinguishes said user from said user information providing means.

5

18. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said user distinction information acquisition means acquires said user distinction information from said user information providing means by using first certification information included in said second certification information.

15

19. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means for providing information regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing information regarding a designated user in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information

25



providing means comprising said user information  
providing means and other user information providing  
means as subordinate user information providing means,  
to said merge user information providing means.

5

20. The information providing apparatus as  
10 claimed in claim 19, wherein said user information  
providing means further comprises user information  
saving means for saving said information regarding  
said user.

15

21. The information providing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 19, wherein said information  
20 regarding said user is user information and/or group  
information of a group to which said user belong, and  
wherein said group information includes user  
information and/or group information of other user  
information providing means.

25

22. The information providing apparatus  
having user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user and further a  
certification service regarding said user,

5           said user information providing means  
providing information regarding a designated user in  
response to a request from a merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising said user information  
10 providing means and other user information providing  
means as subordinate user information providing means,  
to said merge user information providing means.

15

23. The information providing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 22, wherein said user information  
providing means further comprises user information  
20 saving means for saving said information regarding  
said user.

25

24. The information providing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 22, wherein said information  
regarding said user is user information and/or group  
information of a group to which said user belongs,  
5 and wherein said group information includes user  
information and/or group information of other user  
information providing means.

10

25. A managing apparatus, comprising:  
a merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
15 merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user  
information providing means, and  
setup request transmission means for  
20 transmitting a request regarding a set up of said  
subordinate user information providing means,  
said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
said user information providing means and providing  
25 said acquired information regarding said user with

merging.

5

26. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 25, further comprising:

user information acquisition means for  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
10 said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said  
information regarding said user acquired in said user  
information acquisition means.

15

27. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 26, wherein said user information acquisition  
20 means acquires said information regarding said user  
from said user information providing means by using  
first use permission information permitting the use  
of said user information providing means.

25

28. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising  
use permission information acquisition means for  
acquiring said first use permission information from  
5 said user information providing means.

10 29. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 25, further comprising use permission  
information creation means for creating second use  
permission information that permits the use of said  
merge user information providing means.

15

30. The managing apparatus of the claim 29,  
20 wherein said use permission information creation  
means creates said second use permission information  
including said first use permission information by  
using said first use permission information.

25

31. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

5

32. A managing apparatus, comprising:

10           a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and further providing a  
15           certification service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and  
              setup request transmission means for transmitting a request regarding setting up of said subordinate user information providing means,  
20           said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with  
              merging.

25

33. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 32, further comprising:

user information acquisition means for  
acquiring said information regarding said user from  
5 said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging  
said information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

10

34. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 33, wherein said user information acquisition  
15 means acquires said information regarding said user  
from said user information providing means by using  
first use permission information permitting the use  
of said user information providing means.

20

35. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 34, further comprising use permission  
25 information acquisition means for acquiring said

first use permission information from said user  
information providing means.

5

36. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 32, further comprising use permission  
information creation means for creating second use  
10 permission information that permits the use of said  
merge user information providing means.

15

37. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 36, wherein said use permission information  
creation means creates said second use permission  
information including said first use permission  
20 information by using said first use permission  
information.

25



38. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

5

39. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising certification information acquisition means for acquiring first certification information certifying certification of said user in said user information providing means, from said user information providing means.

15

40. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 39, further comprising second certification information creation means for creating second certification information containing therein said first certification information and certifying certification of said user in said merge user information providing means by using said first

25

certification information.

5

41. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 32, further comprising user distinction  
information acquisition means for acquiring user  
10 distinction information that distinguishes said user  
from said user information providing means.

15

42. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 41, wherein said user distinction information  
acquisition means acquires said user distinction  
information from said user information providing  
20 means by using first certification information  
included in said second certification information.

25

43. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 42, further comprising setting screen display  
means for displaying a screen for setting said merge  
user information providing means and said subordinate  
5 user information providing means.

10 44. A merge information providing method in  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising plural  
user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user  
15 information providing means, said method comprising  
the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user  
from user information providing means; and  
providing said acquired information  
20 regarding said user with merging.

25 45. A merge information providing method in

merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising plural  
user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user  
5 information providing means and further a  
certification service regarding said user, said  
method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means; and  
10 providing said information regarding said  
user with merging.

15

46. An information providing method in user  
information providing means, said user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user, said method comprising:

20 a user information offer providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
25 information providing means, information regarding a

designated user to said merge user information  
providing means.

5

47. An information providing method in user  
information providing means, said user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
10 user and a certification service regarding said user,  
said method comprising:

a user information providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
15 information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means, information regarding a  
designated user to said merge user information  
20 providing means.

25

48. A managing method in merge user

information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
information providing means providing information  
regarding a user as subordinate user information  
5 providing means, said method comprising the steps of:  
acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means;  
providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
10 transmitting a set up request requesting  
for a set up of said subordinate user information  
providing means.

15

49. A managing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
20 information providing means providing information  
regarding a user and a certification service  
regarding said user as subordinate user information  
providing means, said method comprising the steps of:  
acquiring said information regarding said  
25 user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a set up request regarding a  
set up of said subordinate user information providing  
5 means.

10 50. A computer-implemented method for  
providing merge information in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
15 user as subordinate user information providing means,  
said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user  
from user information providing means; and  
providing said acquired information  
20 regarding said user with merging.

25 51. A computer-implemented method of

providing merge information in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
5 user as subordinate user information providing means  
and further a certification service regarding said  
user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means; and  
10 providing said information regarding said  
user with merging.

15

52. A computer-implemented method of  
information in user information providing means, said  
user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user, said method comprising:  
20 a user information offer providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
25 information providing means, information regarding a



designated user to said merge user information  
providing means.

5

53. A computer-implemented method of  
providing information in user information providing  
means, said user information providing means  
10 providing information regarding a user and a  
certification service regarding said user, said  
method comprising:

a user information providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
15 information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means, information regarding a  
20 designated user to said merge user information  
providing means.

25

54. A computer-implemented method of  
managing in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means  
5 providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
user information providing means, said method  
comprising the steps of:  
acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means;  
10 providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a set up request requesting  
for a set up of said subordinate user information  
providing means.

15

55. A computer-implemented method of  
20 managing in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user and a  
certification service regarding said user as  
25 subordinate user information providing means, said

method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information

5 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a  
set up of said subordinate user information providing  
means.

10

56. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for providing merge information in merge  
15 user information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
information providing means providing information  
regarding a user as subordinate user information  
providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

20 acquiring information regarding said user  
from user information providing means; and

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

25

57. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for providing merge information in merge  
user information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
5 information providing means providing information  
regarding a user as subordinate user information  
providing means and further a certification service  
regarding said user, said method comprising the steps  
of:

10               acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means; and  
                  providing said information regarding said  
user with merging.

15

58. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for providing information in user  
20 information providing means, said user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user, said method comprising:

                  a user information offer providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
25 information providing means comprising said user

information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means, information regarding a  
designated user to said merge user information  
5 providing means.

10 59. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for providing information in user  
information providing means, said user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user,  
15 said method comprising:  
a user information providing step for  
providing, in response to a request from a merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising said user  
20 information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means, information regarding a  
designated user to said merge user information  
providing means.

25

60. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for managing in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information  
5 providing means providing information regarding a  
user as subordinate user information providing means,  
said method comprising the steps of:  
acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means;  
10 providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a set up request requesting  
for a set up of said subordinate user information  
providing means.  
15

61. A processor readable medium for storing  
20 program code for managing in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user  
25 as subordinate user information providing means, said

method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information

5 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a  
set up of said subordinate user information providing  
means.

10

62. A merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
15 merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
user information regarding a user as subordinate user  
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus  
20 acquiring user information regarding a user  
registered to the user information providing means of  
which use is permitted and the same user registered  
to other user information providing means, without  
distinguishing the user by the user whether or not  
25 the use of said information providing means is

permitted, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

5

63. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, comprising:

10                   distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means;

                  user information acquisition means for  
15   acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

                  user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

20

64. The merge information providing  
25   apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said



distinction information managing means provides said  
distinction information of said same user to said  
user information acquisition means in response to a  
request from said user information acquisition means.

5

65. The merge information providing  
10 apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said user  
information acquisition means acquires said user  
information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means by using permission  
information that permits the use of said distinction  
15 information and said user information providing means.

20 66. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 62, further comprising  
set up means for setting up said subordinate user  
information providing means according to a request.

25

67. A merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
5 user information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring user information regarding a user  
10 registered to the user information providing means of  
which use is permitted and/or certification is made  
therein and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
the user by whether or not the use of the user  
15 information providing means is permitted and/or the  
certification is made, said merge information  
providing apparatus providing said acquired  
information regarding said user with merging.

20

68. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 67, comprising:  
25 distinction information managing means for

managing distinction information that distinguishes  
said user is registered to said user information  
providing means;

user information acquisition means for  
5 acquiring said user information regarding said user  
from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said  
user information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

10

69. The merge information providing  
15 apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said  
distinction information managing means provides said  
distinction information of said same user to said  
user information acquisition means according to a  
request from said user information acquisition means.

20

70. The merge information providing  
25 apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said user

information acquisition means acquires said user  
information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means by using permission  
information that permits the use of said distinction  
5 information and said user information providing means.

10 71. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 67, further comprising  
set up means for setting up said subordinate user  
information providing means according to a request.

15

72. A merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
20 merge user information providing means comprising  
main user information providing means and sub user  
information providing means providing user  
information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
25 information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring user information regarding a user  
registered to the user information providing means of  
which use is permitted and/or certification is made  
5 therein and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
the user by whether or not the use of the user  
information providing means is permitted and/or the  
certification is made, said merge information  
10 providing apparatus providing said acquired  
information regarding said user with merging.

15

73. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprises  
certification information acquisition means for  
acquiring first certification information that  
20 certifies said user in said main user information  
providing means from said main user information  
providing means.

25

74. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 73, further comprising  
second certification information creation means for  
creating second certification information that  
5 certifies said user in said merge user information  
providing means and including said first  
certification information, by using said first  
certification information acquired in said  
certification information acquisition means.

10

75. The merge information providing  
15 apparatus as claimed in claim 74, further comprising  
second certification information providing means for  
providing said second certification information to a  
client requesting said certification.

20

76. The merge information providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprising  
25 set up means for setting up said subordinate user

information providing means according to a request.

5

77. An information providing apparatus  
having user information providing means, said user  
information providing means providing information  
regarding a user,

10               said user information providing means  
providing information regarding said user  
corresponding to said distinction information that  
distinguishes said user registered to said  
information providing means and/or other user  
15 information providing means to merge user information  
providing means in response to a request from said  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means including said user  
information providing means and other user  
20 information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means.

25

78. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, further comprising user information providing means for saving said information regarding the said user.

5

79. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

15

80. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user,

25

said user information providing means



comprising user information providing means for  
providing, in response to a request from merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising said user  
5 information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate user  
information providing means, information regarding a  
user corresponding to distinction information that  
distinguishes said user registered to said user  
10 information providing means and/or other user  
information providing means, to said merge user  
information providing means.

15

81. The information providing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 78, wherein said user information  
providing means further comprising user information  
20 saving means for saving said information regarding to  
said user.

25

82. The information providing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 80, wherein said information  
regarding said user comprises user information and/or  
group information about a group to which said user  
5 belongs, said group information including user  
information and/or group information of other user  
information providing means.

10

83. A managing apparatus, comprising:  
merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
15 merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
user information regarding a user as subordinate user  
information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for  
20 transmitting information regarding set up of said  
subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring user information regarding a user  
registered to the user information providing means of  
25 which use is permitted and the same user registered

to other user information providing means, without  
distinguishing the user by the user information  
providing means of which use is permitted, said merge  
information providing apparatus providing said  
5 acquired information regarding said user with merging.

10 84. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 83, comprising:

distinction information managing means for  
managing distinction information that distinguishes  
said user is registered to said user information  
15 providing means;

user information acquisition means for  
acquiring said user information regarding said user  
from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said  
20 user information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

85. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 83, wherein said distinction information  
managing means provides said distinction information  
of said same user to said user information  
5 acquisition means in response to a request from said  
user information acquisition means.

10

86. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 83, wherein said user information acquisition  
means acquires said user information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means by  
15 using permission information that permits the use of  
said distinction information and said user  
information providing means.

20

87. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 83, further comprising set up means for setting  
up said subordinate user information providing means  
25 according to a request.

88. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 83, further comprising setup screen display  
means for displaying a screen for setting up said  
merge user information providing means and said  
5 subordinate user information providing means.

10 89. A managing apparatus, comprising:  
a merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
merge user information providing means comprising  
plural user information providing means providing  
15 user information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means; and  
setup request transmission means for  
transmitting information regarding to set up of  
20 subordinate user information providing means,  
said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring user information regarding a user  
registered to the user information providing means of  
which use is permitted and/or certification is made  
25 therein and the same user registered to other user

information providing means, without distinguishing  
the user by whether or not the use of the user  
information providing means is permitted and/or the  
certification is made, said merge information  
5 providing apparatus providing said acquired  
information regarding said user with merging.

10

90. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 89, comprising:

distinction information managing means for  
managing distinction information that distinguishes  
15 said user is registered to said user information  
providing means;

user information acquisition means for  
acquiring said user information regarding said user  
from said user information providing means; and

20 user information merging means merging said  
user information regarding said user acquired in said  
user information acquisition means.

25

91. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 90, wherein said distinction information  
managing means provides said distinction information  
of said same user to said user information  
5 acquisition means according to a request from said  
user information acquisition means.

10

92. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 90, wherein said user information acquisition  
means acquires said user information regarding said  
user from said user information providing means by  
15 using permission information that permits the use of  
said distinction information and said user  
information providing means.

20

93. The managing apparatus providing  
apparatus as claimed in claim 89, further comprising  
set up means for setting up said subordinate user  
25 information providing means according to a request.

94. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 89, further comprising setup screen display  
means for displaying a screen for setting up said  
merge user information providing means and said  
5 subordinate user information providing means.

10 95. A managing apparatus, comprising:  
a merge information providing apparatus  
having merge user information providing means, said  
merge user information providing means comprising  
main user information providing means and sub user  
15 information providing means providing user  
information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means; and  
setup request transmission means for  
20 transmitting information regarding set up of said  
subordinate user information providing means,  
said merge information providing apparatus  
acquiring user information regarding a user  
registered to the user information providing means of  
25 which use is permitted and/or the certification is



made therein and the same user registered to other  
user information providing means, without  
distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of  
the user information providing means is permitted  
5 and/or the certification is made, said merge  
information providing apparatus providing said  
acquired information regarding said user with merging.

10

96. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 95, further comprises certification information  
acquisition means for acquiring first certification  
15 information that certifies said user in said main  
user information providing means from said main user  
information providing means.

20

97. The managing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 96, further comprising second certification  
information creation means for creating second  
25 certification information that certifies said user in

said merge user information providing means and including said first certification information, by using said first certification information acquired in said certification information acquisition means.

5

98. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second certification information providing means for providing said second certification information to a client requesting said certification.

15

99. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

20

100. A merge user information providing

25

method in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
5 user information providing means, comprising the  
steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and the same user  
10 registered to other user information providing means,  
without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
permitted; and

providing said acquired information  
15 regarding said user with merging.

20 101. A merge user information providing  
method in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user and a  
25 certification service regarding said user as

subordinate user information providing means,  
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
5 of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted; and  
10 providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

15

102. A merge user information providing  
method in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising main user information providing means and  
20 sub user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means, comprising the steps of:  
acquiring information regarding a user  
25 registered to said user information providing means

of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
5 information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

10

103. An information providing method in  
user information providing means, said user  
information providing means providing information  
15 regarding a user, comprising the step of:  
providing, in response to a request from  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
20 information providing means as subordinate  
information providing means, information regarding a  
user corresponding to distinction information  
registered to said user information providing means  
and/or other user information providing means for  
25 distinguishing said user to said merge user

information providing means.

5

104. An information providing method in  
user information providing means, said user  
information providing means providing information  
regarding a user and a certification service  
10 regarding said user, said method comprising the step  
of:

providing, in response to a request from  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising said user  
15 information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate  
information providing means, information regarding a  
user corresponding to distinction information  
registered to said user information providing means  
20 and/or other user information providing means for  
distinguishing said user, to said merge user  
information providing means.

25

105. A managing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
information providing means providing information  
5 regarding a user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and the same user  
10 registered to other user information providing means,  
without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
permitted;

providing said acquired information  
15 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

20

106. A managing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
25 information providing means providing information

regarding a user and a certification service  
regarding said user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
5 registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
10 information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

15

20 107. A managing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising main user  
information providing means and sub user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
25 user and a certification service regarding said user



as subordinate user information providing means,  
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
5 of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted;

10 providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

15

108. A computer-implemented merge user  
information providing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
20 information providing means providing information  
regarding a user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
25 of which use is permitted and the same user

registered to other user information providing means,  
without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
permitted; and

5                   providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

10

109. A computer-implemented merge user  
information providing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
information providing means comprising plural user  
15 information providing means providing information  
regarding a user and a certification service  
regarding said user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
20 registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
25 information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

5

110. A computer-implemented merge user  
information providing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
10 information providing means comprising main user  
information providing means and sub user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user  
as subordinate user information providing means,  
15 comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
20 information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

25

111. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

5 providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate

10 information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user

15 information providing means.

20 112. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user, said method comprising

25 the step of:

providing, in response to a request from  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
5 information providing means as subordinate  
information providing means, information regarding a  
user corresponding to distinction information  
registered to said user information providing means  
and/or other user information providing means for  
10 distinguishing said user, to said merge user  
information providing means.

15

113. A computer-implemented managing method  
in merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising plural  
user information providing means providing  
20 information regarding a user as subordinate user  
information providing means, comprising the steps of:  
acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and the same user  
25 registered to other user information providing means,

without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
permitted;

providing said acquired information  
5 regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

10

114. A computer-implemented managing method  
in merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising plural  
15 user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
20 registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
25 information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

5

115. A computer-implemented managing method  
10 in merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising main user  
information providing means and sub user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user  
15 as subordinate user information providing means,  
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
20 been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information  
25 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

5

116. A processor-readable medium storing a  
program code for providing merge user information in  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
10 user information providing means comprising plural  
user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user  
information providing means, comprising the steps of:  
acquiring information regarding a user  
15 registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and the same user  
registered to other user information providing means,  
without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
20 permitted; and  
providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

25



117. A processor-readable medium storing  
program code for providing merge user information in  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising plural  
5 user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user and a certification  
service regarding said user as subordinate user  
information providing means, comprising the steps of:  
acquiring information regarding a user  
10 registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
15 information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

20

118. A processor-readable medium for  
providing merge user information in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user  
25 information providing means comprising main user

information providing means and sub user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user  
as subordinate user information providing means,  
5 comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
10 information providing means, without distinguishing  
said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

15

119. A processor-readable medium for  
20 providing information in user information providing  
means, said user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user, comprising  
the step of:

providing, in response to a request from  
25 merge user information providing means, said merge

user information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate  
information providing means, information regarding a  
5 user corresponding to distinction information  
registered to said user information providing means  
and/or other user information providing means for  
distinguishing said user to said merge user  
information providing means.

10

120. A processor-readable medium storing  
15 program code for providing information in user  
information providing means, said user information  
providing means providing information regarding a  
user and a certification service regarding said user,  
said method comprising the step of:

20 providing, in response to a request from  
merge user information providing means, said merge  
user information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user  
information providing means as subordinate  
25 information providing means, information regarding a

user corresponding to distinction information  
registered to said user information providing means  
and/or other user information providing means for  
distinguishing said user, to said merge user  
5 information providing means.

10 121. A processor-readable medium for  
managing in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
15 user information providing means, comprising the  
steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and the same user  
20 registered to other user information providing means,  
without distinguishing said user by whether or not  
the use of said user information providing means is  
permitted;

providing said acquired information  
25 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of  
said subordinate information providing means.

5

122. A processor-readable medium for  
managing in merge user information providing means,  
said merge user information providing means  
10 comprising plural user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user and a  
certification service regarding said user as  
subordinate user information providing means,  
comprising the steps of:

15           acquiring information regarding a user  
registered to said user information providing means  
of which use is permitted and/or certification has  
been made and the same user registered to other user  
information providing means, without distinguishing  
20 said user by whether or not the use of said user  
information providing means is permitted;  
              providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging; and  
              transmitting a request regarding setup of  
25 said subordinate information providing means.

123. A processor-readable medium for managing method merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and  
5 sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:  
acquiring information regarding a user  
10 registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or certification has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user  
15 information providing means is permitted;  
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and  
transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.